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THE TAXONOMIC STATUS OF PEROMYSCUS
ALLEX OSGOOD

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Peromyscus [= *Baiomys*] *allex* Osgood was regarded as a synonym of *Baiomys taylori paulus* J. A. Allen, 1903, from 1909 to 1952. Since 1952 *allex* has been a synonym of *Baiomys taylori analogous* Osgood, 1909. In 1904 Osgood described *allex* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 17: 76-77) on the basis of ten specimens from the city of Colima, Colima, Mexico. According to the original description *allex* resembled *Baiomys musculus musculus* in color, but differed from it in the smaller size of the body and skull. Osgood noted (*loc. cit.*) that *allex* was almost equal in size to *Baiomys taylori taylori*. However, *allex* differed from *taylori* in having a narrower and more elongate braincase. Osgood indicated that *allex* was like *paulus* in size of body and shape of cranium, but differed from it in color. In his "Revision of the mice of the American Genus *Peromyscus*" (N. Amer. Fauna, 28: 255, April 17, 1909) Osgood chose to synonymize *allex* with *paulus*. This choice in the assignment of *allex* to *paulus* produced a hiatus in the known geographic range of *paulus*. Furthermore, this hiatus was occupied by a part of the geographic range of another named subspecies of *Baiomys taylori*, *B. t. analogous*. In 1952 Hall and Kelson (Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 5: 368, Dec. 15) synonymized *allex* with *analogous*. Their decision was based upon comparisons of topotypes of *allex*, *analogous*, and *paulus*; two specimens of equal age and the same sex of *allex* and *analogous* were almost equal in size. In color, topotypes of *analogous* averaged darker than those of *allex*. One specimen of *analogous* (120267 BS) was seemingly indistinguishable from the paratypes of *allex*. On the basis of their report the correct name for this population should have



been *Baiomys taylori allez* Osgood, 1904 (they failed to realize that *allez* had priority over *analogous* and used the latter name).

Examination of all of the original materials (holotypes and paratypes) pertinent to this problem in the course of my present study of the Genus *Baiomys* leads me to the opinion that Osgood's *allez* should not be synonymized with either *paulus* or *analogous* (both of these are distinct subspecies of *Baiomys taylori*), but instead, that *allez* should be recognized as another distinct subspecies of *Baiomys taylori*. The name applicable to this population is *Baiomys taylori allez* Osgood, 1904. From paratypes of *Baiomys taylori paulus*, *B. t. allez* differs in: Unicolored instead of bicolored tail; belly paler; feet more sooty dorsally; 9 of 13 external and cranial measurements averaging smaller (see table 1). Owing to the small size of the sample the differences in measurements may not be significant. From paratypes of *Baiomys taylori analogous*, *B. t. allez* differs in: Ventral part of forelegs and belly whitish, instead of gray; dorsum fawn colored with gray overtones, instead of blackish-sepia; external and cranial measurements averaging smaller throughout (see table 1), but as previously mentioned the size differences may not be significant owing to the small size of the sample. The several differences in color of *allez* are alone sufficient to separate it from either *analogous* or *paulus*.

B. t. allez is known only from the type locality but may occur in northern Colima, the western part of Jalisco, and the southern part of Nayarit.

I am grateful to Mr. George G. Goodwin, the American Museum of Natural History, for permission to examine the holotype and paratypes of *Baiomys taylori paulus*, and to Dr. David H. Johnson, United States National Museum, for permission to examine the other mentioned material.

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Table 1. Average and extreme measurements, in millimeters, of three subspecies of *Baiomys taylori*

	Total length	Tail vertebrae	Length of body	Hind foot	Occipitonasal length	Zygomatic breadth	Postpalatal length	Least interorbital breadth	Length of incisive foramina	Length of rostrum	Breadth of braincase	Depth of cranium	Alveolar length of maxillary tooth-row
<i>Baiomys taylori allex</i> , Colima, Colima													
Number of specimens ..	9	8	9	9	6	9	6	9	9	8	8	7	9
Average	105.5	42.0	63.1	13.3	17.8	9.3	6.5	3.4	3.7	5.7	8.5	6.4	3.0
Minimum	100.0	38.0	58.0	13.0	17.5	8.8	6.2	3.2	3.5	5.4	8.3	6.1	2.8
Maximum	113.0	47.0	68.0	14.0	18.4	9.7	6.7	3.5	3.8	6.0	8.8	6.6	3.0
<i>Baiomys taylori paulus</i> , Rio Sestín, Durango													
Number of specimens ..	6	6	8	9	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	5	6
Average	109.0	44.5	63.0	13.1	17.5	9.3	6.6	3.5	3.8	5.9	8.6	6.6	3.2
Minimum	106.0	43.0	57.0	12.7	17.4	9.1	6.2	3.4	3.6	5.7	8.5	6.2	3.1
Maximum	117.0	48.0	69.0	14.0	18.0	9.5	6.9	3.6	4.1	6.0	8.8	6.9	3.4
<i>Baiomys taylori analogus</i> , Zamora, Michoacán													
Number of specimens ..	9	9	9	9	8	9	8	9	9	9	9	8	9
Average	109.7	43.8	65.9	14.4	18.0	9.5	6.6	3.5	4.0	6.0	8.7	6.5	3.1
Minimum	100.0	36.0	60.0	13.5	17.6	9.1	6.3	3.3	3.6	5.6	8.4	6.3	3.0
Maximum	123.0	53.0	72.0	15.0	18.6	9.9	6.9	3.8	4.2	6.6	9.0	6.8	3.2